DEWAN'S REPLY TO THE ADDRESSES PRESENTED TO HIM IN THE DASARA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY.

(22nd October 1923.)

GENTLEMEN,

Following the practice of previous years, I propose to give a joint reply to the several Addresses just now read, and at the outset, I thank the various special interests on whose behalf they were presented, for their appreciative references to His Highness' Government. As many of the questions brought forward have been dealt with in my Opening Address, I do not intend to go over the same ground again and would, therefore, touch briefly on the other representations, in this reply.

In the Address of the Kolar Gold Fields Mining Board, reference has been made to two important matters—the Improvement of the Water Supply and the augmentation of the Police force. These questions are not new but have already received considerable attention. Recently, I paid a visit to the Bethamangala Pumping Station to examine the proposals for improvement to the pipe line and other allied works. Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 1,67,358 towards these objects and the works are in progress. As regards the low standard of purity brought to notice, necessary instructions have already been given to the Water Supply Department to make a detailed examination of the question and their report is awaited. I regret that it is just now not possible to promise any large increase in the Kolar Gold Fields Police force, owing to financial stringency. The Inspector-General of Police has, however, made certain proposals in the matter, which are being considered and orders may be expected shortly. The Govenment Police, I fear, cannot take over any part of the duties of the Watch and Ward Establishments of the Field maintained by the mining companies.

The Malnad Address covers much of the old ground, and I would refer the members to my Opening Address which deals fully with all the points raised. In regard to the question of the Land Mortgage Bank, I have already, during my last visit to Tarikere, expressed the attitude of Government on this question. The question of a Land Mortgage Bank has been referred to the Co-operative Committee and their report has been received. The detailed proposals for a small scheme with an initial capital of two lakhs of rupees, the people contributing half that amount, will now be awaited.

The other Associations, specially the Vokkaligara Sangha, the Kurubara Sangha, the Anjuman-e-Mahadevia, the Indian Christian Association, the Jaina Education Fund Association, and the Arya Vaisya Mahasabha, make specific requests in respect of hostel grants, scholarships and other local wants. These matters are being dealt with by the respective administrative departments in the usual course, and some of them, also, are included in the

list of subjects coming up for discussion. It is not therefore possible to deal with them now. Government have every sympathy with these requests and are trying to meet them as far as possible within the limits of their Budget policy.

A reference has been made in the Address of the Vokkaligara Sangha, the Lingayet Education Fund Association, the Central Mahomedan Association, the Kurubara Sangha, the Jaina Education Fund Association, the Anjuman-e Mahadevia and the Indian Christian Association to the constitutional question of representation of special interests through the existing organizations. This necessarily forms a part of the general scheme of Constitutional Developments and the decision of Government on the point will shortly be announced.

The representative of the Adi Dravida community has made an appealing reference to the numerous disabilities under which it is at present labouring. No assurance is needed, I think, to satisfy them that in all the directions suggested for the betterment of their moral and material condition, Government are taking active steps.

In general, I have only to add that the various representations made in the several Addresses presented will receive careful consideration and will be met to the extent possible, in accordance with the general policy of His Highness' Government.

I thank you all most sincerely for your kind personal references to myself and I also thank you on behalf of my learned colleague the First Member of Council.

It will be my pleasing duty to convey to His Highness the Maharaja your sentiments of loyalty and devotion to His Highness. I shall also duly submit to His Highness your feeling references to the late Sir M. Kantaraj Urs and your respectful message of sympathy and condolence.